



# Community News Update

December 2023



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## President's Message

Greetings and warmest wishes for the holiday season,

Let me keep this message brief while also conveying the warmth of the season. I'd like to direct your attention to a few important matters covered in more detail in this month's news update.

- 1. Zoning Text Amendments related to restaurants, bars and nightclubs:** This is important and its working its way through city hall for approval. It's complicated too. DSCA is paying attention to this, as it directly impacts how much resident input is considered when new establishments, especially those with outside seating are being planned, where new bars can be established and more.
- 2. Architecture Sarasota Speaker Series:** Wow, the Architecture Sarasota organization's Speaker Series has been announced. These events will feature world-renowned urban planners, futurists, and thought leaders speaking about Sarasota specific planning. They will be must-see opportunities for members of our community really focused on the future of our city. See more below for important details.
- 3. DSCA Accomplishments for 2023:** For a comprehensive look at what our board and committees have achieved in 2023, please follow this link. Our list of accomplishments is a pretty long one, and while there's still much on DSCA's plate, I think collectively we made significant progress and made a real difference in a number of areas. The DSCA board and I want to express our sincere thanks to all of you for your continued support and the role many of you played in this effort.  
[DSCA-Accomplishments-2023.pdf](#)

Once again, wishing you a joyful holiday season and a fantastic 2024.

Warm regards,

**David Lough**

DSCA President

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**Downtown Update - ZTA Initiatives**

## Sarasota wrestles with definitions of drinking, dining establishments



El Melvin on Main Street has in the past opened its folding glass doors late at night, drawing complaints from nearby residents of loud music. That practice would be classified as a nightclub under proposed zoning changes. Courtesy: The Observer

After gaveling in the Sarasota City Commission’s Dec. 5 workshop to discuss staff-proposed zoning text amendments for dining and drinking establishments in the downtown zoning districts, Mayor Liz Alpert suggested first tackling what she thought would be the easiest of the definitions — restaurants

Rather than serving as the appetizer, it turned out to be a full-course meal as commissioners got bogged down in a debate over whether a dining room that brings in prepared food from off-site — or a “ghost kitchen” — is really a restaurant.

Planning Director Steven Cover, City Attorney Robert Fournier and City Manager Marlon Brown attempted to interject that where the food comes from and how the public perceives that is not germane to how a restaurant is licensed relative to alcohol sales, but that did not dampen the debate.

[Click here](#) to read full article from The Observer.

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# DSCA Holiday Party

## Holiday Party Hits the Right Notes!

We're pleased to share some highlights from this year's DSCA Annual Holiday Party, where we gathered to celebrate the season and our downtown community.

Nik Walker, President of the Sarasota Jazz Club, along with his colleagues, shared insights into the Jazz Club's history and upcoming plans for 2024, including their valuable educational initiatives. Nik also brought along a Jazz Club member trio that provided enjoyable music throughout the evening.

Our holiday event had a turnout of approximately 70 attendees, including City Manager Marlon Brown and four city commissioners. We appreciate their attendance and support over the year of working with DSCA and downtown residents on initiatives to continually improve our downtown.

We were delighted to see many of our dedicated DSCA Associate members, who have generously supported us throughout the year. The evening was filled with fun, music, and great company.

Take a look at some photos from the event below, and for more, please visit the DSCA website.



[View 2024 Holiday Party Photos Here](#)

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## New Year - New Look



### **Introducing the New Look of DSCA: Website Migration**

Exciting news for DSCA members! On December 1, 2023, we successfully revamped the DSCA public website. Discover the latest updates, exclusive features, and a wide range of events on the Members-only page. Stay informed about news and activities within the DSCA community through our user-friendly Wild Apricot online platform.

This transformation offers easy access to up-to-date information for both DSCA members and the public. Explore the Members Only area and benefit from valuable discussions on local condo issues. Engage with the Members Forum, where condo representatives, board members, and property managers can ask questions and foster a sense of community.

Join us and explore all the incredible features designed exclusively for our members.

Read the full details of the Website Migration [here](#)

We value your feedback! If you have any comments or suggestions, we would love to hear from you. You can reach us at:

Email: [Downtown.Sarasota.Condo.Assoc@gmail.com](mailto:Downtown.Sarasota.Condo.Assoc@gmail.com) | Voice/Text: 941-404-8005

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**Get Involved - Make a Difference**

The Downtown Sarasota Condo Association (DSCA) is currently looking for committee participants. If you are passionate about making a difference and want to be a voice for our community, this is your opportunity to help the DSCA thrive.

The DSCA has several committees that cover a broad array of topics and interests such as Greenspace, Homelessness, Transportation, Zoning, Art, Health and Safety and Events.

Click here to view the [DSCA committees](#) and [topics of interest](#).

To apply or learn more about joining one of our committees, please send an email to [Downtown.Sarasota.Condo.Assoc@gmail.com](mailto:Downtown.Sarasota.Condo.Assoc@gmail.com). We look forward to hearing from you.

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## City News

## Bobby Jones Golf Club offers City Residents Quadruple Discounts



Residents of the City of Sarasota can now enjoy a quadrupled discount at Bobby Jones Golf Club. Additionally, they have the privilege to book tee times up to 14 days in advance. To avail this benefit, City of Sarasota residents should complete the verification form provided below and submit the required documents via email or traditional mail (refer to the form for further instructions). Read more from The Observer [here](#).

Download the verification form [here](#).

Situated in Bobby Jones Golf Club, the **Nature Park** offers 90 acres of magnificent urban green space. It offers various amenities including cycling paths, a historic park, a leashed dog area, parking, restrooms, trails, a walking path, and a water feature. Learn more by visiting [Bobby Jones Golf Club](#).



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## City of Sarasota considers new licensing procedures for private-towing companies



Sarasota City Commissioners have initiated discussions on the towing of vehicles from private parking lots in the city. This comes after numerous complaints from people who have had their cars towed from business lots. According to Sarasota Parking General Manager, Broxton Harvey, many of the complaints suggest poor signage or unfair parking restrictions. As such, the commission is exploring ways to address these concerns and ensure that towing activities are carried out in a fair and reasonable manner. While no decisions have been made yet, the discussions are a positive step in the right direction towards resolving this issue. Read full article [here](#).

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## Arts & Cultural



## Architecture Sarasota Downtown Sarasota Speaker Series



DSCA is pleased to share that Architecture Sarasota is organizing the Downtown Sarasota Speaker Series. This series will explore downtown Sarasota's past, present, and future. Featuring speakers like Andrés Duany, David Houle, Mitchell Silver, and Victor Dover, the first presentation of the series is on **January 24th at the Art Ovation Hotel**.

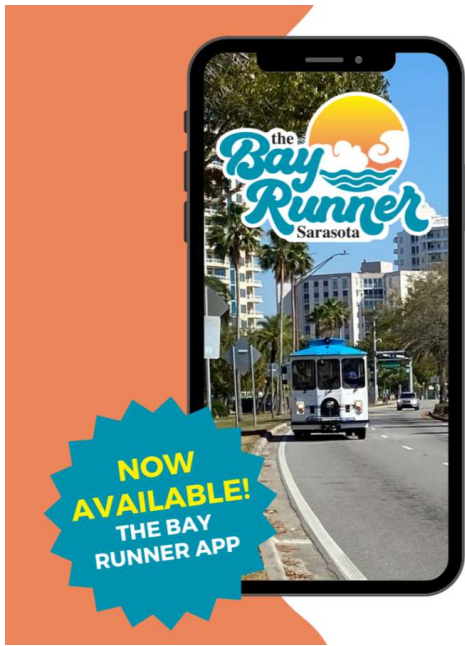
Over six weeks, these speakers will discuss topics like the current downtown master plan, how the city has changed in the past 20 years, what's influencing its growth, effective downtown planning, and insights from other cities.

To better understand today's Sarasota, each speaker will arrive early, meet with officials, community members, and the media, and work with DSCA board members. Join us for this informative journey that will contribute to shaping our city's future. For more details, check the press release and secure your event tickets early. View Press Release [here](#).

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## Getting Around

### Bay Runner



Get ready for your next adventure with the Bay Runner app! With just a few taps on your phone, you can access all the information you need for a seamless trip. Whether you're planning your route or tracking the trolley's real-time whereabouts, the Bay Runner app has got you covered. No need to fumble with paper maps or stand out in the heat waiting for the next trolley. Download the app now and experience the ultimate convenience of having everything you need right at your fingertips. It's time to make the most out of your journey with Bay Runner! [Learn More](#)

[Download on the Apple App Store](#) | [Get it on Google Play](#)

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### **Gulfstream Roundabout**



Experience the remarkable transformation of the Downtown roundabout! This central hub is undergoing an exciting upgrade with beautiful tree plantings. Witness the progress and final result firsthand by clicking the link for the live webcam feed here:

[Marina Tower Roof \(Marina Tower Roof\)](#)

NOTE - once the link loads, hover over the image and click on the play (>) button.

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# Condo Corner

**Welcome to Condo Corner!**



Looking for a platform to share your community experiences? You've come to the right place! Condo Corner is the new segment of DSCA's newsletter that celebrates the sense of community within downtown buildings. We want to hear from you!

**Share Your Community Initiatives** -Do you have exciting activities and initiatives in your building that foster connections among residents? We would love to know! Share your thoughts, experiences, and anecdotes with us via email.

**Get Featured** - Your contributions will be featured in the upcoming edition of Condo Corner. Join us as we explore and celebrate the power of community within downtown Sarasota.

**Connect with Us** - We're eager to hear from you! Don't hesitate to send us an email at [downtownsarasotacondoassoc@gmail.com](mailto:downtownsarasotacondoassoc@gmail.com). Let's celebrate and amplify the vibrant community spirit together!

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## Rosemary District

## Rosemary Park Construction.....its lift off!



DSCA is pleased to report that construction has officially begun on a versatile community park in the ever-growing Rosemary District, located at the intersection of Central and Blvd of the Arts. This exciting development is set to become a vital addition to our neighborhood.

One of this small park's features is its expansive lawn area, thoughtfully designed to accommodate a wide range of activities, including hosting various events and gatherings. Alongside the lawn, carefully selected seating and benches will provide comfort and serve as a central hub for community engagement within our neighborhood. Importantly, residents in the area made it clear to the designers that they wanted shade and trees. The park's design includes a significant number of canopy trees and palms, complemented by the addition of a shade trellis.

Residents are known to be extending appreciation to the Sarasota Department of Parks and Recreation for their contribution on the design of the park, and now its buildout. As construction progresses toward its planned completion in the early part of the new year DSCA will be sharing pictures along the way.

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### **Check out the latest news and events happening in the Rosemary District**

A blend of modern culture, food and activities you can schedule your whole day around. [Click here to view Rosemary District Events](#)

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## DSCA Board December Wrap Up

As has been the recent practice, the 12/6 DSCA Board meeting was held in hybrid fashion, both in person at the Broadway Promenade Club Room and via Zoom. Following are links to the full Board meeting and guest speaker presentation.

**Guest Speaker:** Nik Walker, President of the Jazz Club of Sarasota

- View full meeting video [here](#)

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## DSCA Upcoming Events

### DSCA Board Meeting

#### **DSCA Board Meeting - Wednesday, January 3, 2024**

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM | @ Zoom & Broadway Promenade, 1064 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34236

Guest Speaker: Kevin Stiff - The Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness

[Register](#)

DSCA Board Meetings are for Board Directors, with designated Condo Member Representatives, Liaison Association Representatives and invited Guests attending as observers. Contact President, David Lough (760) 497-9230, if you wish to be invited.

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**Associate Members - Post your event on our DSCA Calendar to share with the community!**

[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT YOUR EVENT](#)

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# Upcoming Community Events



### **Marie Selby Botanical Gardens - Lights in Bloom®**

Step into a dazzling winter wonderland of lights at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens this holiday season! From **December 10th to December 23rd**, you can experience the magic of Lights in Bloom®, an annual event that features over two million lights shining bright throughout the gardens and walkways. While strolling through the illuminated pathways, be sure to take advantage of holiday photo opportunities and enjoy the variety of activities and entertainment available. If you're looking to indulge in delicious food and drink, the Michael's on East grill has got you covered with a cash bar and tasty bites available for purchase. Don't miss out on this enchanting evening at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens! Learn more by visiting [here](#).



### **The Ringling - Bayfront Garden Tour**

This small group guided walking tour introduces you to interesting historical

This small group guided walking tour introduces you to interesting botanical specimens, while providing a historic overview of the development of the estate. The Ringling has over 2,350 trees representing native, exotic, historical, and culturally significant trees.

The tour is offered seasonally, December 9 – April 29, 2024. Tickets will be available 30 days prior to each tour date. Tours are 90 minutes long and take place entirely outdoors. Participants are encouraged to bring bottled water, and wear appropriate footwear, and sun protection. The tour is subject to weather conditions and your ticket includes access to the Bayfront Gardens for the rest of the day. Visit [TheRingling](#) for tickets and more information.

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## Fresh Fridays



### **Fresh Fridays | New Year on the Block | January 5 | 7 - 10 PM**

See you next year, Friday, January 5th, from 7-10 p.m., for more signature giveaways, beverages and bites from special hospitality partners, and more fresh entertainment to be announced!

Until then, stay tuned for New Year on the Block updates in the coming weeks! Please LIKE and Follow [@DowntownSarasotaDID](#) to show your appreciation for the Downtown Improvement District's incredible work funding and creating Fresh Fridays events!

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## **SARASOTA FARMERS MARKET | Saturdays | 7 AM - 1 PM**

The Market is open every Saturday all year round! In the heart of downtown Sarasota, centered at the intersection of Main Street and Lemon Avenue, extending to First Street on the North End, and Pineapple Avenue on the South End, with Vendors also located on State Street. Click [here](#) for more information.

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### **PALM AVENUE GALLERY WALK**

A casual walk down Palm will lead you on an art walk, housing exceptional pieces curated by downtown galleries and murals created by local artists. The City of Sarasota is committed to the aesthetic enrichment of the community through private and public acquisition of works of art so that citizens and visitors to the City are afforded an opportunity to enjoy and appreciate art. Click [here](#) for an audio tour guide and for more information.

## **The Bay Park Conservancy**

### **The Bay Park | Calendar of Events**

Sarasota's bayfront is an iconic, public destination that welcomes the diversity of Sarasota, enhances our status as a cultural capital and serves as a venue for multi-generational, inter-neighborhood, broad-based enjoyment of our bayfront.

[View the updates from The Bay Park Conservancy.](#)

[View The Bay Park - Calendar of Events](#)

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**If you missed any of our newsletters [Click here](#) to view past issues to share with your condo community**

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## **We Are Downtown Sarasota Residents partnering with Businesses!**

Are your neighbors receiving our emails? ***Help your neighbors stay connected and forward this email to downtown condo residents!*** Click here to [subscribe here](#).

This message was sent to you by {Organization\_Name}.  
If you no longer wish to receive these emails, you can [unsubscribe](#) at any time

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